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Policies on Intelligence Efforts by Allies In U.S. Are Lacking, Senate Panel Says

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government doesn't have specific policies to curb the intelligence services of its allies that carry out improper or illegal activities in this country, the Senate Intelligence Committee said.

The panel reached its conclusions after a lengthy review of the government's response to U.S. intelligence information about the efforts of the South Korean government to buy influence in Congress and silence potential opponents to the South Korean regime here.

According to the report, between 1970 and 1972 U.S. intelligence services collected detailed information about Korean payments to members of Congress and political parties. But the intelligence findings, which focused on Korean influence buyer Tong Sun Park and the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, weren't fully investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the report says.

In addition, starting in 1963, U.S. intelligence operations knew of KCIA efforts to monitor the activities of Korean residents in the U.S. and later gathered evidence that Korean operatives were working to block Korean-Americans from criticizing the regime of Korean President Chung Hee Park.

While the findings aren't new—they've been disclosed over the last few years by the press and several congressional committees—the committee's focus on the government's failure to curb the activities is likely to provoke controversy.

"It is clear that no means have yet been

designed to prevent 'friendly' foreign intelligence services from acting in ways that have and still could subvert our laws and subject our citizens to intimidation by foreign powers," the panel stated in its 50-page report.

The activity of foreign intelligence agents stationed in the U.S. by allies is a matter of growing concern within the government, although for diplomatic reasons very little has been made public.

Because of the highly publicized Korean influence-buying scandal, a lot of attention has been paid to the KCIA in recent years, but the government is also concerned about the U.S. operations of five or six other intelligence services of friendly nations—including Israel and Iran. Some officials worry that these countries may go too far in dealing with their own citizens or other potential troublemakers in the U.S.

In addition, the report comes at a time when the Carter administration is focusing on a counterintelligence matter of far greater concern—the activities of the Soviet intelligence service, the KGB, in the U.S. The administration is currently trying to bolster its ability to track Soviet intelligence operations here.

The Senate report concludes that "the FBI should devote greater resources to their counterintelligence effort in order to be able to counter the threats posed by both hostile and 'friendly' foreign intelligence services." In particular, the report says it should keep track of agents of friendly countries here.

MORI/CDF